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MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION MODIFIES MD 213 NEAR C&D CANAL TO ADD NEW TURN LANES FOR SAFETY

Installation of Two-Way Center Left-Turn Lane Creates Safer Queuing Area

(November, 2011) - Drivers traveling along MD 213 (Augustine Herman Highway) in Cecil County are now benefiting from the safety benefits of a newly installed two-way left-turn lane just south of Bohemia Manor High School and just north of the C&D Canal.

This fall the State Highway Administration (SHA) modified the roadway which was originally designed for fairly limited access serving as the only significant north-south roadway through southern Cecil County. However, as Chesapeake City has experienced increased development growth, it has also introduced additional traffic, vehicle conflicts and varying speeds by motorists, according to SHA's Office of Traffic Safety.

The net result of the increase in speeding traffic and vehicle conflicts was created primarily from motorists seeking to turn left off of MD 213. SHA traffic studies show nearly 40 percent of crashes along the MD 213 corridor were rear-end crashes. Many vehicles have been queuing in the travel lane and then make their turn when an available gap becomes available in the opposing stream of traffic. This situation was further complicated as many pass-through motorists used the roadway shoulder to navigate around the queued left-turning vehicles on MD 213.

By installing the new two-way left turn lane, SHA expects the high number of rear-end crashes to be reduced and with narrower travel lanes, could encourage motorists to reduce speeds along the corridor. Even with the additional two-way turn lanes, six to 10-foot road shoulders will maintain bicycle compatibility along the MD 213 corridor.

SHA traffic engineers note two-way left turn lanes are a traffic calming tool to not only provide a safer environment for motorists seeking to turn off the corridor, but also potentially reduces travel speeds.

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